Dept of Classics
Queen's Univ.
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Harold:

I have various notes from you, so this will cover several topics.

The Paris Match photo showing rifleman in Dal Tex window: I wrote to P-M in Paris to learn why their reporter thought this was sniper's nest. They replied that they could not locate their old records and could not answer my questions. I wrote to Sprague and suggested that he try the same questions at P-M's New York office. I doubt whether he did, for he has not mentioned it at all.

Here is an interesting addition to this. Gary Murr has a photo that he cut from Dec 1963 edition of, I think, Look magazine. It shows a view through telescopic sight located at the snipers nest, but-- like P-M-- locates the nest in the Dal Tex. Look and P-M printed different photos, both locate sniper's nest in Dal Tex.

I think that P-M picture was taken from second floor window, but it could be third floor. It really does not matter, though, for the important thing is that the photographers were led to believe that shots were fired from the Dal Tex. On the far right of the P-M picture you can see the lintel of the TSBD that separates the first from the second floor. It looks only slightly lower that the level of the camera, so I suppose that the camera is photographing from a second floor window-- probably not the fire escape window, though; i.e., the one that xxx is open in Altgens 3.

I saw Gary this weekend, but got no information about Trent Gough's questioning of witnesses in Toronto. If you want that information, you will have to get it from Gough-- or maybe Gary will loosen up for you.

London Ray: I sent nothing to Louis Ivon that I did not send to you. You should have two sets of Dawnay reports: one deals only with his questioning of Mrs Thomas at the Pax Hotel; the other set adds reports on witnesses at New Earls Court. My present feeling is that there were two persons in London using the name Sneyd: one at the Pax, the other -- perhaps James Earl Ray-- at New Earls Court. The one who stayed at New Earls Court apparently is the one arrested; the one who stayed at the Pax with Mrs Thomas is still a mystery.

So far I am operating on the assumptions that (a) Mrs Thomas's description is accurate, and (b) Dawnay's reports are reliable. I am trying to remove doubt in both those areas; I asked Dawnay to seek corroboration for Mrs Thomas's description from anyone else who might have seen the Sneyd who stayed with her. Also I asked his permission for me to write personally to Mrs Thomas and get her to affirm the accuracy of Dawnay's reports. It isn't that I think he is making things up, but I just want to eliminate all possibilities of error.

My interest in Beckham wanes as I learn more about him. Xx Definitely he is not Mrs Thomas's Sneyd, and I regard it extremely unlikely that he is the Sneyd who was arrested. Nothing in this game is so far fetched as to be unthinkable, but I believe we are barking up the wrong tree with Beckham.

Ivon sent back a brief description of Beckham-- not much, but adequate. He doesn't think Wm. Seymour is involved-- neither do I.

Unless someone comes up with a good lead instead of mere guesses, I'm going to give up trying definitely to identify the Sneyd who stayed with Mrs Thomas. I'll be satisfied if we can definitely establish that he is not the Sneyd who came into custody. That will be definite if

one or the other of two things happens: 1) Dawnay gets reliable corroboration for Mrs Thomas, or, 2) we learn that Ray was arrested in transit from Lisbon.

Sprague came up with an interesting lead as to who might have supplied false Canadian passports to "Ray". He suggests Earl Anglin James. Sprague sent me a copy of a Toronto Star article by reporter Earl McRae. EAJames runs a diploma mill in Toronto; appears to be crazy, but I think he may be faking.

The funny thing is that one of my students is a fried of McRae, the Star reporter. Months ago my student told me that McRae described Earl James as a forger, although McRae does not mention forgery in his articles. I suspect that he knows something about Earl James that he dares not print for fear of lawsuit-- I recently made a try at getting in touch with McRae, and will pick his brains if I can.

What interests me is that my student made no mention of Earl James as a wierdo cleric and operator of a diploma mill-- he only mentioned that James was a forger. I suppose that he got that info directly from McRae, for McRae does not print it.

By the way, Ferrie called Earl James seven times in 1962-63. Probably you know that.

When James Earl Ray was named as King's assassin, Earl James came forth and proclaimed that he was Ray's father. I think the guy is pretending to be nuts, possibly as a cover.

I may also be able to get information on Earl James through a couple of inmates at a local penetentiary here. I know a couple of people there who might be willing to help. If it works out I might get some real inside dope. We'll see.

LondonRay's accent: English is not Mrs Thomas's native tongue, and what she hears as a German accent may not be German at all. We don't know whether she would recognize different accents, so I take her description to signify "non-English". Her description of Sneyd with dark "suntanned" complexion and tight curls in his short hair suggests a Latin type to me. In any case, I would not restrict the accent to German.

Buell Wesley Frazier: I would not definitely assert that he was involved either in the shooting or in framing Oswald, but I think that there are good reasons for keeping an eye on him, and for leaving doors of interpretation open. Part of this rests on my belief that Oswald is the Man in the Doorway of Altgens 3. I believe I explained in a previous letter thatif Oswald is the Man in Altgens, then Frazier lied concerning his whereabouts at the time of the shooting. There are other things too; no one of them is significant in itself, but the mass of them cause a discernable billow of smoke. I grant that there may be reasonable explanations for incosistencies; all I want, however, is to keep him in mind.

Rifle test: I am having no luck getting the gun that I need. Please be patient for results; 6.5 mm is a weirdo caliber-- not many people around here use it. The one that I had lined up for tests turned out to be 6.5x 55, which has a somewhat faster muzzle velocity that the Mann.-Car. (6.5 x 53).

Don't send a gun to me; the expense is too much.

[redacted]

Whitney Joy's remarks about how the rifle was sighted in: Mr Joy is correct in asserting that the Mann.-Carcano is not accurate, and the Commission's claim that it is as acurate as modern military firearms is simply not true. Like the rest of us, Joy fell for Frazier's trickery about the trajectory. Frazier probably was not lying when he said that groups fired at 100 yards were 5 inched above point of aim-- but be withholds such important information that his testimony is tantamount to a lie. He failed to note the relevance of his having changed the sighting arrangement before he fired the 100-yard targets. This is the very issue that I want to clear with the test of the trajectory, for I am sure that if Frazier had not lowered the sighting arrangement, the bullets would have struch at least two feet high of the point of aim. I estimate that as an absolute minimum, but I suspect that the trajectory is much higher. There is no question of that either in my mind or in the minds of others experienced shooters to whom I displayed Frazier's initial 15-yard target (CE 548).

I don't know who Whitney Joy is. If you think that we should be in touch, feel free to give him my address.

Correspondence with my brother. I have not yet heard from my brother re the Cuban "classbook". Nevertheless, I wrote again today and repeated the request. I also asked him about Penabez, Duarte, Bringuier, and suggested that he get in touch with you. So far I know nothing of his attitude or what he plans to do, for he has not yet answered my previous letter. If he should get in touch, you may mention to him that I believed that he was once giving info to the CIA about Cuba. For the sake of family harmony, don't mention to him that I fell sure that is the case. He has elected to tell me that he was not working for the CIA; I choose not to believe him, but to ~~xxxxxx~~ behave as though I did-- at least until I see him personally.

Getting in touch with Cubans: My Peace Corps friend did not go to Toronto after all and mention me to the Cubans. Within the next few days I shall write to the Ambassador in Ottawa and seek an interview with him or his representative.

As you can see by my hasty diction, it is late and I hurry through this letter. I'll write again as soon as I have something new to report.

Still

Dick

Bernabei